Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ference from the normal, as well as in the fuller treatment which has been accorded to the subject of heavy falls on rainfall days and in short periods. The volume for 1909 is the 49th of the series—surely a splendid record of important work well done. The whole unique collection of documents of the British Rainfall Organization, and Dr. Mill's interest in the concern, have been made over to a body of trustees, Dr. Mill continuing to act as Director. This body of trustees, which is strong and representative, has formed an endowment fund, so that the whole undertaking has been put on a firm and permanent basis. It appears, from the discussions in the volume for 1909, that the rainfall for 1909 was exactly the average, but that in the last 21 years dry years have been more than twice as frequent as wet ones. R. DEC. WARD.

The Classic Mediterranean. By John Bancroft Devins. 255 pp., map and illustrations. American Tract Society, New York, 1910. $1. 8 x 6.

A readable collection of notes made on a journey in the central and eastern Mediterranean. The descriptions are somewhat disjointed and brief, since many regions were visited and the book is not large. The work of Protestant missionaries in Turkey and elsewhere is described. As a series of brief personal impressions, the book will commend itself to a considerable number of readers. F. V. EMERSON.

GENERAL

The Face of the Earth (Das Antlitz der Erde). By Eduard Suess. Translated by Hertha B. C. Sollas under the direction of W. J. Sollas. Vol. IV (=III ii of the German edition) viii + 673 pp. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1909.

The favor done the English-speaking world by the Sollases in translating the first three volumes of Suess's monumental work on surface geology has been enhanced by the promptness with which the English version of the second part of the third volume of the work appeared after the publication of the German original. It is possible now for the reader or student familiar only with the English language to obtain easily a complete survey of the most comprehensive treatise in existence regarding the geological origin of the surface features of the entire globe. The plates belonging to the volume and an index to the complete work are to form Volume V of the English translation.

The present volume opens with a discussion of the extension of the Altaide mountain system from Asia westward across Europe, into eastern North America and southwestward into northern Africa. The description of the wide development of these pre-Permian mountains is impressive. The Altaides form the vast passively resistant foreland platform of three continents. The Alpides follow upon the Altaides and rest upon them as if they were a frame for their support. The Alpides comprise not only the Alps themselves, but also the mountain ranges east and west from the Black Sea to Gibraltar. They give expression to practically the whole of the contraction of the earth's mass that has occurred since Carboniferous time within a large portion of the globe.

In America, Laurentia is described as a very ancient mountain nucleus, behaving toward all the younger folds as a shield or foreland. Suess, however, extends Laurentia beyond the boundaries usually set by American geologists. He makes it reach from the Appalachians to the Rocky Mountains and to lat. 30° N. on the south. Greenland is a fragment of Laurentia, standing as a *horst* between subsidences of different ages. On the west, the long folded ranges which border the Pacific coast of America, are joined on the northwest by the group of the Alaskides, while the Rocky mountain system is continued northward and reaches the Arctic Ocean north of Bering Strait as the Arctic branch of the Alaskides.

Passing thus from one feature of the earth's surface to another—true mountains, plateaus, valleys, ocean basins, volcanoes, islands—Suess by his marvelous and masterly marshaling of facts, bears the reader along irresistibly, until he almost sees the advance of one wave of mountain-making after another across the continents and oceans with all the attendant phenomena. The book is a perfect treasure house of collated observations and countless references.

One of the most interesting, illuminating and suggestive chapters is that devoted to "The Moon. Hypotheses. Retrospect." One of the important conclusions is negative, and is that the theory of isostacy is based upon inadequate observations. The more exact measurements of recent years lead to a grave doubt of the truth of there being a deficit in gravity beneath the mountains. A great service to science is the emphasis laid throughout the work upon the idea that the ocean, as well as the land, has varied in elevation, that is, in the distance of its surface from the center of the globe. Hence, Suess does not speak of subsidence and elevation of the land, but of positive and negative movements in the strand line, leaving the mind of the reader free from preconceived notions in the consideration of the phenomena under discussion.

As in the previous volumes of the series, the English translation follows the German idioms too closely for pureness of style, and sometimes even for lucidity of expression. Some new words are introduced which cannot be complained of, but the frequent use of established English words in new senses, and the transfer of German words almost bodily into English, are to be deprecated. Some carelessness in abbreviation of names of societies and publications may lead to trouble in finding references; for instance, we find the publication of the Geological Society of America constantly cited as Bull. Am. Geol. Soc., and the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, called Am. Mus. N. Y. These, however, are minor matters, and the English-speaking world is far the richer, in a geological and geographical sense, through being able now to read Suess in its own tongue. E. O. Hovey.

The Age of Mammals in Europe, Asia and North America. By Henry Fairfield Osborn. xvii and 635 pp., maps and illustrations, appendix and index. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1910. $4.50.

This volume of 650 pages and over 200 illustrations brings together in compact form the results of many years of work by the author and his co-workers in the American Museum of Natural History in New York. No museum of the world has a wealth of material in Vertebrate Paleontology equal to that of the American Museum and upon this material, largely collected and prepared under his own direction, the author has drawn for the substance of his book. It is in the best sense a source book, for it gives at first hand, from the original material, the ideas of an acknowledged master in mammalian paleontology. Moreover, the text is the amplification of material prepared for lectures and tried out before students, so that it has the clarity and directness of style so welcome, and rare, in such a work.

The time has long passed when any man can call himself master of all phases of even such a seemingly narrow branch of science as Vertebrate Paleon-